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ABSTRACT

This packet contains 12 family literacy activities to encourage parents in adult literacy classes in Alberta, Canada to help their children learn to read and write. Each one-page activity provides tips for conducting the activity and information for parents. The following activities are included: (1) read aloud; (2) encourage family activities; (3) add new experiences; (4) develop confidence; (5) talk together; (6) open doors to writing; (7) go to the library together; (8) enjoy home town events; (9) tell your child stories; (10) help your child with homework; (11) explore new adventures; and (12) restrict the use of television. Activities are illustrated with line drawings. A page of relevant quotations is attached. (KC)

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Families Read Together

BOW CORRIDOR ADULT LITERACY PROJECT

READ ALOUD

ENCOURAGE FAMILY ACTIVITIES

ADD NEW EXPERIENCES

DEVELOP CONFIDENCE

TALK TOGETHER

OPEN DOORS TO WRITING

GO TO THE LIBRARY TOGETHER

ENJOY HOME TOWN EVENTS

TELL YOUR CHILD STORIES

HELP YOUR CHILD WITH HOMEWORK

EXPLORE NEW ADVENTURES

RESTRICT THE USE OF TV

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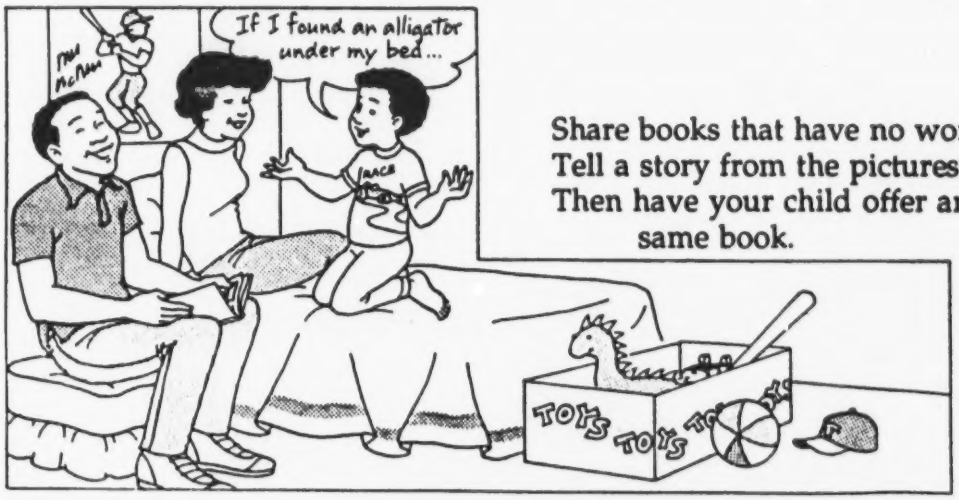
Read Aloud

Find a special time to read aloud everyday.
Let your child select the book to be read.
Sit close as you read to him or her.
Then become the listener while he or she reads to you.

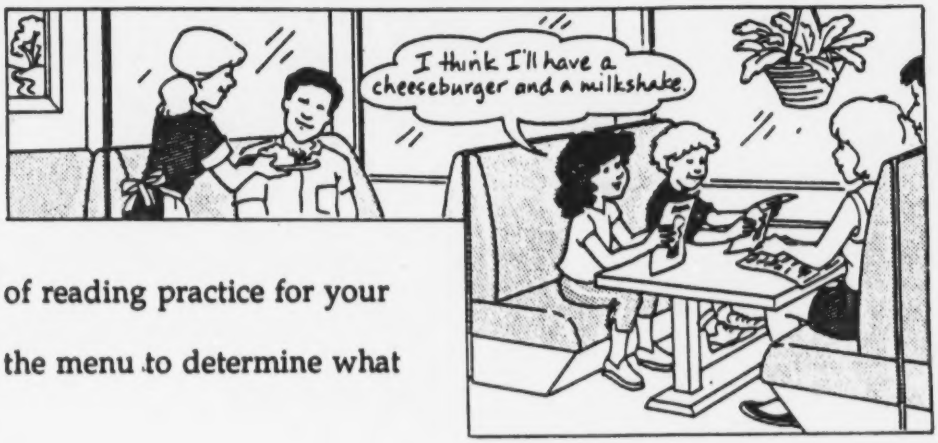
Enjoy reading stories that continue for several days.
Review what happened when you read aloud the day before.
Predict what may happen tomorrow when you will read again.

Reading aloud helps to instill in your child a love of reading.



Share books that have no words.
Tell a story from the pictures.
Then have your child offer another version of the same book.

Encourage Family Activities



A simple outing can be full of reading practice for your child.
Have him or her read from the menu to determine what to order.

Working and playing together provide broadening experiences for the whole family.

Find opportunities to play a board game together.
They are fun and also reinforce skills of reading, thinking, speaking, and computing.

Enlist other readers, too.
Siblings and grandparents can share their love of reading.
Take a break with popcorn or fruit.
Show your child what a <u>treat</u> it is to read!

Add New Experiences

At home, find new recipes and decide together on a special meal you will cook.
Plan a shopping trip together.
Make a list of all the groceries you plan to buy.
Finally, enjoy home cooking together.

Let your child see that reading is all around us, enriching our everyday experiences.

Riding in the car can be educational, too!
Be sure to keep some of your child's
favorite storybooks in the car.
Play an alphabet game as you drive.
Look together for items beginning with a certain letter.
For example, looking for B items you might find bridge, bike, balloon, and barn.

Develop Confidence

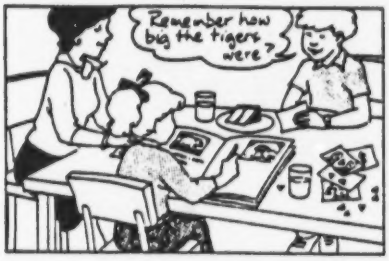
Encourage your child in all of his or her daily efforts.
Be supportive and helpful about homework assignments.
Guide your child through difficult homework, allowing him or her to do the work.
Be interested in your child's friendships and activities in and out of school.

Your daily encouragement will help your child to be confident.

Show your child that you value his or her company.
Involve him or her in your activities and fill the time with conversation.
Share ideas, reactions, opinions, and emotions.
Talk about what you see and experience together.

Help your child find opportunities to use new skills.
Show him or her how to take clear telephone messages.
Have your child practice leaving notes.
Together, write lists for holiday gifts or plan a birthday party.
Create a calendar for the New Year.

Talk Together



Involve your child in making plans for family trips and activities.
Have him or her keep lists of places you have been and places you want to go.
Together, look at maps and travel books to decide on your trip.
Discuss what you need to take and what you hope to see.
Keep a family journal.
After the trip, create a picture scrapbook of your time together.

Conversation increases your child's understanding of the world and fosters his or her communication skills.

Watch a news program or read a newspaper together.
Each day, talk about an event – international, national, or local.
Share your reactions and opinions, and encourage your child to do the same.
Use resources such as an atlas or an almanac to clarify the event.

Talk about what you read.
When reading a book together, ask your child questions about the book.
When you've finished, talk about a different ending to the story.

Open Doors To Writing

Letter writing shows your child the value and enjoyment of communicating through the mail.
Having a pen pal is an exciting way to get to know another place and person.
Birthday cards and thank-you notes are also fun to make.

Encourage your child to experiment at home with all types of writing to different audiences.

Work together on a special writing project.
Write and illustrate a family history with your child.
Use actual photographs to highlight the events you describe.
Make a binding for your book, using string or ribbon.
Share the project with others.

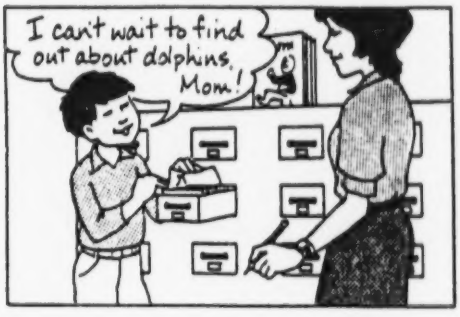
Let your child help with daily record-keeping at home.
Show him or her how to use the family calendar or address book.
Ask your child to add to or delete from the shopping list or To-Do list.

Go to the Library Together

Together, get to know your library.
Apply for a library card and visit the library frequently.
Watch for special shows and exhibits.

Enjoy together the cassettes and read-along books.
Ask the librarian's help in selecting books for your child's age.

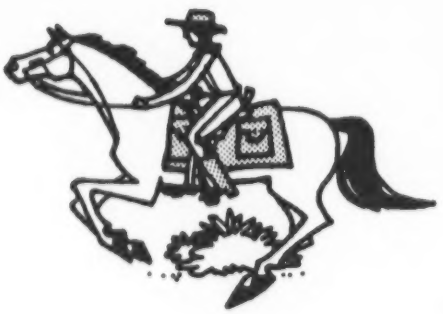
The library in your local community is a valuable resource for parents & kids.

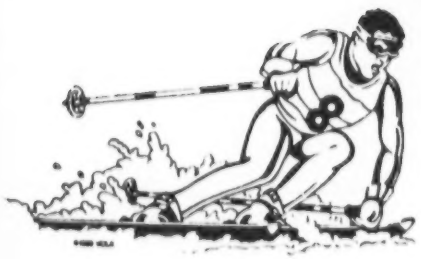


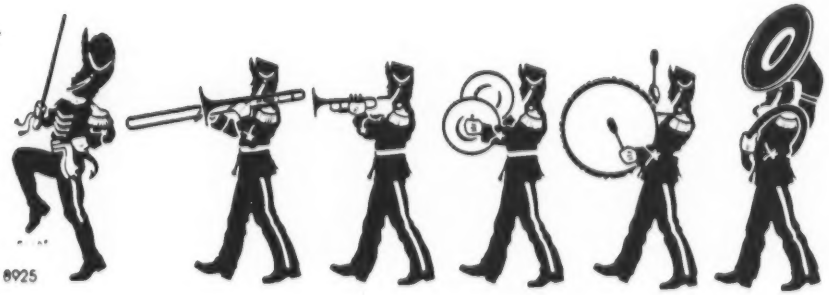
Use the library to find books about a particular topic.
Find related shows, cassettes, and articles about the topic.

Plan for your child to attend a library storyhour.
Speak with your child about what was read.
Ask how it made him or her feel.

Enjoy Home Town Events







Watch for special events in town that your family can attend together.
An art exhibit, circus or carnival, or the Folk Festival are all good events.
If you live in the city, visit a local farm, or vice versa.
Go on a tour of your local fire station.
Describe and discuss any new construction that is being done in your community.

If there is a movie or play version
of a story, arrange to see it together.

Tell Your Child Stories

On a rainy day, write a cooperative story.
Begin with a single sentence such as, –
"We had always wondered about the dark, abandoned house by the pond."
Take turns adding sentences.
Read aloud your creative story.

After you and your child have finished reading a favorite book, write a script for a play of the story or of a special scene.
With a team of family members or friends, design costumes.
Draw a set and consider props and lighting.
Finally, share your performance with others.

Tell your child stories of when you were in school and the things you did.
If you played any sports, tell about what position on the team you played.
If you were a gymnast, explain what you did to become a gymnast.
Many children want to know how their parents met and when they were married.
As you tell the story, show your wedding album and explain each picture.
Children always want ot know about their family's past experience!

Help Your Child with Homework If You Can

Set aside some time to talk with your child about how each school day went.
Ask your child what homework he or she has for the next day.
Together, help plan the evening.
It helps to study the hardest subject first and to take regular breaks.

Take an active interest in your child's assignments and projects.
Ask your child to summarize stories and books he or she has read.

Your support of good study habits gives your child an advantage in school.

Become a member of the parent group at school.
Participation in the meetings will keep you well-informed about school goals and activities.
It will also show your child that you care about his or her school environment.

Encourage your child in all of his or her daily assignments.
Be supportive and helpful about homework assignments.
Guide your child through difficult homework.
Allow him or her to do the work and feel the accomplishment.
Be interested in your child's friendships and activities in and out of school.

Explore New Adventures

Visit museums, galleries, stadiums, or concert halls to increase your child's education.

Volunteer in your child's classroom or school.
Go on field trips and join in the fun.
Foster your child's enthusiasm for school by showing your own eagerness to participate.

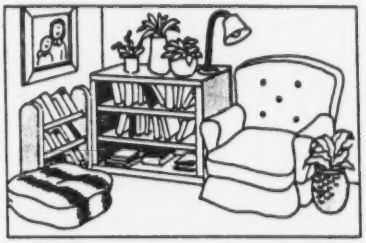
Show your child that reading opens doors of discovery.

Suggest that your child begin a collection of a favorite item.
It could be baseball cards, dolls, cars, insects, recipes, letters or poems.
This activity encourages your child to use classifying skills.
Have your child write letters to experts.

Look for ways for your child to share what he or she knows of a subject.

Restrict the Use of TV

Tune in to what your child is watching on TV.
Together, establish guidelines for what, when, and how much your child views.
Plan to watch some shows together, discussing and predicting the events.
Look for good TV programs for children.



Create a book corner in your home.
Select a comfortable spot with good lighting where you can place your child's books.
This would be a good place for your own books as well.

During homework time, turn off the television.
This shows your child how important you consider time for studying.
This is a good time for you to read also.
Check in with your child and praise his or her work whenever possible.

Begin a family reading hour.
Let your child see you enjoying reading often.
Encourage him or her to read while you are reading.
Books, magazines, sections of the newspaper, crossword puzzles, games, and comic books all make for fun reading for your child.

Other Points to Ponder

R **"The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children."** from Becoming a Nation of Readers, page 23

E **"Children who are avid readers come from homes in which reading is encouraged by a parent, grandparent, older brother or sister, or even a baby sitter. They come from homes that have books, subscriptions to children's magazines, and in which both adults and children have library cards."** from Becoming a Nation of Readers, page 78

A **"In addition to laying a foundation, parents need to facilitate the growth of their children's reading by taking them to libraries, encouraging reading as a free time activity, and supporting homework."** from Becoming a Nation of Readers, page 57

D **"As cheerleader and advocate, remember to have faith in your child's ability to learn to read."** from Becoming a Nation of Readers -- What Parents Can do, page 18

T **"The way in which parents talk to their children about experience influences what knowledge the children will gain from the experience and their later ability to draw on the knowledge when reading."** from Becoming a Nation of Readers, page 22

O **"Writing is important in its own right. Because of the interrelatedness of language, learning to write also aids in reading development."** from Becoming a Nation of Readers, page 33

G **"Most children will learn how to read. Whether they will read depends in large part upon the encouragement they receive and the example their parents set."** from Becoming a Nation of Readers -- What Parents Can Do, page 24

E **"No matter where you live, your home and community can provide a rich source of experiences for you to share with your children. These experiences can be simple, like taking your child on a trip. Providing the occasional trip outside of the daily routine can go a long way. Such a trip may be as simple as spending a day in the country if you live in the city or vice versa."** from Becoming a Nation of Readers -- What Parents Can do, page 5

T **"Children who are not spoken to by live and responsive adults will not learn to speak properly. Children who are not answered will stop asking questions. They will become incurious, And children who are not told stories and who are not read to will have few reasons for wanting to learn to read."** from Babies & Books: A Joyous Beginning by BABY TALK, Rolling Prairie Library System, Decatur, IL

H **"Research has shown that parents of children who become successful readers do two things: they are involved in school programs and they monitor their children's progress in school,"** from Becoming a Nation of Readers -- What Parents Can Do, page 2

E **"As proficiency develops, reading should be thought of not so much as a separate subject in school but as integral to learning literature, social studies, and science."** from Becoming a Nation of Readers, page 60

R **"Limiting television viewing frees up time for reading and writing activities."** from Becoming a Nation of Readers, page 16

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